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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

SECRET [redacted] 25X1A

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	[redacted]
SUBJECT	Passenger Airplane Crash near Krakow	DATE DISTR.	24 May 1954
		NO. OF PAGES	1
DATE OF INFO.	25X1A [redacted]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	[redacted]	REFERENCES	633391

25X1X

[redacted]

1. On 19 March 1954 a twin-engined passenger airplane, flying from Warsaw to Krakow, made a forced landing approximately 45 kilometers before reaching Krakow. The forced landing was caused by a malfunction of the plane's radio communications equipment. The pilot landed at what he believed to be an airdrome, but the plane crashed into a rock. It did not, however, catch fire.

2. The plane had 21 passengers, all of whom were highly regarded actors on their way to Krakow to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the famous actor Solski. Thirteen passengers were seriously wounded, and eight passengers were killed. Among those killed was Leon Sziler, Director of the National Theater in Warsaw.

3. The site of the plane crash was approximately 10 kilometers from the nearest town. Although one passenger did manage to reach the nearest police station, it had no transportation facilities, and the wounded had to wait six hours before receiving first aid. The Krakow airfield made no inquiries when the plane failed to arrive on schedule.

4. Although many articles about the death of Leon Sziler have appeared in the newspapers, not one has mentioned that Sziler was killed in an airplane accident.

5. The flight engineer of the crashed plane was Zimmerman (fnu), a resident of Okecie, Warsaw.

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STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					

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